

REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

CUBA: HURRICANE CHARLEY

Appeal no. 20/2004
8 September 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

THIS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE SEEKS CHF 2,419,000 (USD 1,905,168 OR EUR 1,576,163) IN CASH, KIND, OR SERVICES TO ASSIST 25,000 BENEFICIARIES (5,000 FAMILIES) FOR 6 MONTHS

[\(click here to go directly to the attached Appeal budget\)](#)

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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- *In Panama, Nelson Castaño, Head, Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: ifrcpa07@ifrc.org, phone (507) 316-1001, fax (507) 316-1082*
- *In Geneva: Luis Luna, Regional Officer, Americas Department email: luis.luna@ifrc.org phone (41 22) 730 4274; fax 41.22.733.03.95*

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.

The situation

On 13 August 2004, Cuba was severely impacted by the passage of Hurricane Charley which hit at 12.15 hours in the region of Punta Cayama, between Guanimar and El Cajío, on the south coast of the Province of La Habana. Hurricane Charley, a category 3 storm, hit the Provinces of Ciudad de la Habana and La Habana with fierce winds of 170 kph and squalls of over 200 kph (see attached map). The passage of the storm resulted in flooding of low-lying areas of the south coast, in particular in the Province of La Habana. In anticipation of the storm, the Civil Defence ensured evacuation of 215,532 people from high-risk areas, of whom 35,794 took refuge in temporary shelters, whilst the remainder stayed with families and friends. As a result of the passage of Hurricane Charley, over 70,000 homes incurred damage and thousands of hectares of crops were spoiled. Early reports indicate that around

Cuba; Hurricane Charley: Request for Assistance no. 20/2004

8,000 trees were uprooted and 95 per cent of sugarcane, bean and banana crops have been seriously affected. The electricity, water and telephone networks were also severely affected. In addition, in the two Provinces, 798 schools and 312 health centres were damaged.

Incoming damage reports indicate that the Province of La Habana was the most severely affected by the Hurricane. Search and rescue operations have been finalized. However, Red Cross volunteers continue to assist those who were evacuated, of whom 852 remained in shelters as of 25 August. The Cuban authorities undertook preventive measures to avoid the outbreak of disease, given the damage to health centres. Red Cross volunteers worked to support these government initiatives. In the Province of Pinar del Río, telephone communication was interrupted over an eleven day period, although, overall, the Province was less affected by the passage of the hurricane. The current situation in the capital where water is trucked in with tankers is not linked to the hurricane, but rather to drought conditions which were prevalent before Hurricane Charley hit the country. Nevertheless, water systems were further disrupted as a result of the force of the Hurricane.

This request for assistance for 5,000 vulnerable beneficiary families has been issued in early September, given the time necessary for damage and needs assessments to be carried out in isolated, rural communities which were struck by Hurricane Charley.

CHF 100,000 has been released from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) in order to start the planned relief assistance activities.

The needs

Immediate needs:

Shelter: Data from damage and needs assessment indicates that over 70,000 homes were partially or totally destroyed, 50,000 of which incurred damage to the roofs. This appeal is designed and intended to assist the most affected vulnerable beneficiaries to replace/repair the roofs of their houses which were damaged or totally ripped off, and who live mostly in rural areas with meagre resources.

It is intended to assist 5,000 families (25,000 people) through provision of roofing material – zinc sheeting - for their houses. Relief items will also be provided for families who lost their belongings. Families targeted are from the Province of La Habana in the municipalities of Guira de Melena, San Antonio de los Baños, Güines, Artemisa, Madruga, Batabanó, Mariel and Quivicán. Beneficiary selection will take place with local authorities, taking into account particular needs including those of the elderly, the ill and pregnant women.

Non-Food Items: Given that thousands of families lost all their belongings, there is an urgent need to provide non-food relief items in the form of sheets, towels, mattresses, kitchen kits, and kerosene stoves.

Longer-term needs: The longer-term needs will probably consist of roofing material and non-food relief goods, but these will be communicated in subsequent Operations Updates to be issued shortly, based on more detailed needs assessments.

Community-Based Disaster Preparedness

The operation provides an opportunity to promote work with vulnerable, disaster-prone communities, enhancing their capacity to mitigate risk and to respond to disasters. Red Cross volunteer brigades will assist communities to identify risks and community education will take place with a multiplying effect given the training of Red Cross facilitators who will pass on their knowledge to the communities. Information will be provided to communities in high-risk areas on making their homes more resistant in the face of hurricane-force winds.

Coordination

The Cuban Red Cross will work in close coordination with the government authorities and other State bodies which make up the civil defence system. The Cuban Red Cross headquarters will ensure close liaison with its Provincial and Municipal branches. Beneficiary criteria amongst vulnerable groups in areas prone to risk will be defined in

Cuba; Hurricane Charley: Request for Assistance no. 20/2004

coordination with local authorities. Logistics support for transportation of relief goods, as well as training of facilitators in the repair and installation of roofs will be provided by the Cuban Red Cross, with support from governmental authorities.

A relief delegate from the German Red Cross is in La Habana in order to set up a response operation, and is liaising closely with the Cuban Red Cross and the Federation. Furthermore, the Federation is in dialogue with UNDP and other international organizations which are looking into the possibility of securing further funding in order that all homes destroyed by Hurricane Charley in vulnerable areas can be repaired.

The proposed operation

Objectives and activities planned

Shelter

Objective 1: 5,000 beneficiary families (25,000 persons) will be able to return to their homes as a result of the replacement or repair of damaged roofs.

Activities planned to reach this objective:

The areas most affected by the Hurricane will be identified and beneficiaries selected in coordination with the local authorities. In order to replace and repair roof structures, purchases of zinc sheeting and nails will be made. These will be distributed to beneficiary families and volunteer brigades will assist families to carry out the repairs on the roofs to ensure quality repair work.

Emergency Relief (Non-Food items)

Objective 1: 5,000 beneficiary families (25,000 persons) will have benefited from the distribution of non-food items.

Vulnerable beneficiaries lost all their belongings as a result of the Hurricane. Items to be distributed are as follows: sheets, towels, mattresses, kitchen kits and kerosene stoves which will help people resume their normal lives.

Strengthening of response capacities

Objective 1: Both Cuban Red Cross branches in the Province of La Habana and the targeted communities will have been strengthened.

The objectives outlined in this request for assistance will help to put into action the specific objectives of the national development plan: increasing the operational capacity of the National Society in response to disasters; consolidation of the development of National Society branches and promotion of the image of the Cuban Red Cross. The identification of the most vulnerable communities and persons in high-risk areas will enable the National Society to fulfil its objectives and commitment to vulnerable groups.

Purchase and installation of HF and VHF radios will take place for the La Habana Province branch, improving communications. In addition, equipment will be provided for nine search and rescue groups, one per selected Municipality, each made up of thirty people. Equipment to be purchased consists of: boots, helmets, overalls, mattresses and back packs. In addition, t-shirts, caps, stickers, Red Cross banners, first aid kits, tents and photographic material will be procured for the teams to ensure visibility and promote the Red Cross presence and image. Volunteer recruitment will be also boosted as a result of the operation. Two computers will be purchased for the Habana Province Branch and the evaluation team from the national headquarters to facilitate the work of the National Society.

Objective 2: To further the Community-based disaster preparedness programme in the Province of La Habana.

Communities to be supported and strengthened will be selected; criteria include levels of vulnerability and a current lack of prevention and preparedness initiatives. It is planned to train Red Cross community facilitators who will

Cuba; Hurricane Charley: Request for Assistance no. 20/2004

work with the communities in the areas of risk mitigation and disaster preparedness. Mitigation information and education will be provided to families in order that they are in a position to make their roofing more resistant to hurricane-force winds. In addition, volunteer brigades will work with vulnerable communities to promote health and hygiene measures. Amongst other activities, 10,000 community guides will be published and printed, together with 500 facilitator manuals. It is also planned to develop a spot for television which will highlight the preparation of communities in the event of disaster situations.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – Principles and priorities

- Assistance to beneficiaries is carried out in accordance with the principle of humanity, ensuring humanitarian aid reaches those most in need.
- Distributions of relief goods take place fully in accordance with the SPHERE standards.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

Information on the progress of the operation will be provided.

Capacity of the National Society

The Cuban Red Cross has wide experience in disaster response and has a significant body of volunteers. In the wake of Hurricanes Lili and Isidore, the Cuban Red Cross undertook a similar operation in late 2002 whereby 1,000 families were assisted through the provision of zinc sheeting and nails enabling them to repair or reconstruct roofs. Furthermore, 500 families were assisted with the provision of toilets and clean water supplies with an emphasis on the promotion of health education. In addition, 500 families were provided with basic relief items and household goods through the Japanese Red Cross Society funded container project which involves pre-positioned containers of relief items placed in strategic areas for use in times of disasters.

Capacity of the Federation

The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), its delegates skilled in disaster management, logistics and telecommunications, will support as necessary the Cuban Red Cross Relief Department. All purchases for the operation will be carried out by the Regional Logistics Unit in Panama.

Monitoring and evaluation

Weekly narrative reports will be generated from the Provincial branches and forwarded to the CRC headquarters. Monthly monitoring visits by the coordinating team from the headquarters will take place in the field. Timely Federation standard reports will be issued on the progress of the operation and two monitoring visits are planned to take place by a Federation delegate.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

Susan Johnson
 Director
 National Society and Field Support Division

Markku Niskala
 Secretary General

[Budget below; click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

No.20/2004

Cuba: request for assistance, hurricane Charley

TYPE	VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS	IN CHF
Shelter & constructions (250,000 metal sheets)	2,008,000
Utensils & tools	108,000
Other relief supplies	67,000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS	2,183,000
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<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
Office equipment	21,000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
Programme support (6.5% of total)	157,000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>	
Transport and storage	10,000
Vehicle costs	15,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
National staff	15,000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>	
Travel & related expenses	5,000
Information expenses	8,000
Administrative & general expenses	5,000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS	236,000
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TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES	2,419,000
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LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
NET REQUEST	2,419,000
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